

Connecticut Preservation Action

Testimony for the Appropriations Committee public hearing
on February 20, 2013

Rep. Walker, Senator Harp, and members of the Committee:

In Opposition to Bill 6357, the Gov. Budget, Sec. 22 re. the Community Investment Act and the insertion of a measure to pay for the healthy foods initiative in school lunches.

I am here today officially representing Connecticut Preservation Action, a non-profit which advocates for historic preservation in the state legislature and in Congress. We represent individuals and other organizations, such as the CT Trust for Historic Preservation, CT Main Street Center, Hartford Preservation Alliance, New Haven Preservation Trust, and New Canaan Preservation Alliance.

The Community Investment Act (CIA) as originally written is an elegant measure because it levies a land use-based fee, which in turn funds statewide programs which are land use-based. There is a symmetry and logic to its source of funding and their ultimate use. Other speakers here today will tell you about the huge success stories accomplished all across the state, saving historic buildings, farms, open space, providing essential housing. Don't cripple these efforts.

I applaud the healthy foods initiative; our children deserve no less. But feeding our schoolchildren is not a land use-based program and certainly belongs in the regular biennial budget. In writing this Section 22 into law, you are making permanent a measure which will make this just another tax, seriously diluting its intent.

This progressive measure should not be treated like a piggy bank, even in a really tough budget year. Where is the public policy logic?

Gillette, Liz

From: Annmarie Merritt <pottersink@earthlink.net>
Sent: Monday, February 18, 2013 11:26 AM
To: AppropriationTestimony
Subject: Maintain our state Parks

To Whom it May concern,

I visit local parks in nearby states and National Parks with open bathrooms, open snack bars, free maps and actual garbage removal.

In Connecticut state parks, we don't seem to need garbage removal at our state beaches or parks, nor do we seem to need essential (park info, trail maintenance, actual live staff) staff at our parks. If we value tourism on a local or regional level, we should have staff and services at our local parks at a minimum. In truth, our neglected parks need actual maintenance and restoration.

I pay more at a Connecticut beach and get less services than traveling out of state and paying out of state fees to beaches nearby. Is that what we want our residents to do?

I travel through ghost parks in Connecticut where there are no services or staff. *As a single female, I don't actually feel safe parking in park parking lots and using trail alone since the parks are virtually abandoned with no staff on premises.* My car is not safe in the lots and I am not safe going alone. If parks were properly staffed, this would be a less glaring issue. In addition, there are no travel maps and no informational areas. This does not make a new visitor want to recommend the park to others. Are businesses missing the chance to sell gas and extras to people visiting our parks.

Our parks deserve more attention and funding. Actual programs like the history of the area, the plant life, the birds, geology and other education topics are what we should be striving to offer if not all the time, then at least on a semi regular basis at each park. With no garbage removal, we forget all that we are not doing at the parks.

Cut the crap and fund our Connecticut parks.

Annmarie Merritt
Vernon, CT